

Remarks

Examiner Kovacs and I held a telephone interview today to discuss the above-identified patent application. More specifically, we discussed the Office Action dated November 26, 2005 and the rejections of independent claims 1 and 9. At that interview, we reached agreement that claims 1 and 9 as amended herein and that new claims 25 and 26 would be allowable over the prior art of record.

Amended Claim 1

The prior art does not disclose or suggest a brush rake of the claimed type, i.e. with side brushes pivotally connected to the outer lateral outer ends of the claimed center brush and in which the brush bristles are the only thing that engage the granular material. Even if it were obvious in Engler to substitute brushes for blades, there is no teaching in Engler or Shields to suggest deleting the ground engaging wheels of Engler to arrive at the claimed brush rake. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Amended Claim 9

This invention eliminates teardrops by using a vehicle capable of turning tightly as shown in Fig. 6 compared to the prior art shown in Fig. 7. In addition, the trailing rake has been designed to avoid pushing loose, granular material behind the rake on the inside corner of the turn and leaving a ridge of such material. The trailing rake avoids this undersirable result by lifting up on the end of the rake on the inside

corner of the turn. This is not taught or suggested in any of the prior art of record and is now more clearly set forth in limitations (c) and (d) of amended claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 and its dependent claims are allowable.

New Claim 25

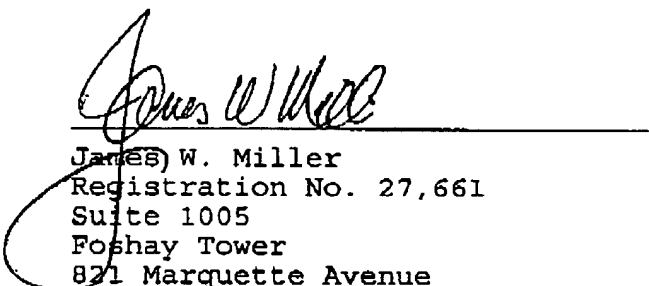
The center brush is desirably heavier acting on the loose, granular material than the side brushes. This is clearly not taught in Engler, Shields, or any other prior art. New claims 25 and 26 directed to this feature should be allowed.

Summary

All of the claims as contained in this Amendment are allowable. It is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and sent to issue.

Respectfully presented,

April 25, 2005



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